

## McGILL'S OPERATION FOR PROSTATIC ENLARGEMENT, WITH THREE CASES.\*

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THE vesical disturbances directly due to prostatic hypertrophy are so common, and so distressing, that I need offer no apology for bringing this subject before the association for discussion. There may be considerable hypertrophy, when the direction of principal growth is downward, without giving rise to any bladder symptoms. But when the growth extends into the bladder cavity, it sets up irritation from its presence, and renders the patient eventually unable to empty the organ completely. This condition may be fully relieved, at least for a time, by the regular and proper use of the catheter. In some cases this relief may continue for many years, perhaps for the remainder of life. Generally, however, cystitis slowly develops, and may become so severe that the patient spends most of his time, day and night, in painful efforts to empty the bladder—the urine being ammoniacal, and containing slimy mucus, blood, and pus. Life in such a condition is unendurable. The patient urgently demands relief at the hands of the surgeon, failing which he will gladly welcome death as a happy release. In these cases, the operation now sometimes called by the name of the lamented McGill offers not only the prospect of relief, but also a hope that the natural bladder function may be restored. Too frequently the operation is so long delayed that there is no reasonable chance of success. The patients are so worn out by suffering that they have no power to bear the necessary shock of operation, or there may be a pyelo-nephritis already developed from the old cystitis. In such conditions a high death rate should not be a matter of surprise. The operation may also be required in less advanced cases. For example, in patients where the use of the catheter causes considerable hemorrhage; where, from enlargement of the middle lobe, it is difficult even for the surgeon to pass an instrument; and also where, from any cause, it is impossible to teach the patient the proper use of the catheter.

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